



# Saguaro National Park (West)

## Naturalist Program Schedule

Programs meet at the Red Hills Visitor Center, 2700 N. Kinney Road, and last 30 to 45 minutes, unless noted otherwise. All programs are subject to change. Call the visitor center at (520) 733-5158 for updates. See [www.nps.gov/sagu](http://www.nps.gov/sagu) for other programs.

**May 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29** 11:15 a.m. **Play Sonoran Desert Bingo!** Game: 1 hour

Learn about the plants and animals of the Sonoran Desert while enjoying a rousing version of Bingo! Get five in a row – down, across, or diagonally – and win a non-monetary prize. First come, first served. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**May 6, 13, 20, 27** 9:45 a.m. **Sonoran Secrets to Desert Survival** Walk: 60 minutes, 250 yards

Stroll the Cactus Garden and identify the most common hazards hidden in the desert, uncover survival strategies of native plants and animals, and acquire practical tips to ensure your safety. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**May 7, 14, 21, 28** 10:15 a.m. **The Plants Tell All** Hike: up to 1 hour, up to 1/2 mile

Plants are the foundation of the web of life. Join a park naturalist to learn the secrets of what ties together the plants and animals of the Sonoran Desert. Plant survival, insects and spiders, birds and mammals -- nothing is off limits to questions. Wear closed-toed shoes and a hat, and bring water. **NOTE:** *In case of hot weather, an indoor program may be substituted.*

**May 2, 9, 16, 23** 10:15 a.m. **Living With Giants** Talk: 45 minutes

The saguaro celebrates events and faces challenges throughout its life. A biologist explains how it provides shelter and substance for wildlife; when it flowers; its growth patterns; and how it fights for survival against drought, lightning, frost, and other dangers. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**May 1, 8, 15, 22** 2:15 p.m. **Lizards are Hot, Lizards are Cool** Talk: 30 minutes

**May 29** at 3:15 p.m. Lizards are small denizens of the desert that are a critical component of our desert community. Find out what it means when they do pushups or exhibit other behaviors. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**May 12, 26** 11:15 a.m. **Life Cycle of the Saguaro: Seed to Giant** Walk: 45 minutes, 100 yards

Hear some astonishing reasons about why so few Saguaro seeds make it to fruition.

**May 1, 8, 22** 3:15 p.m. **Snakes of Saguaro National Park** Talk: 45 minutes

**May 15** 10:15 a.m. Saguaro National Park is home to 26 known species of snakes, including 7 venomous snakes. A park ranger who also is a herpetologist will give answers to many questions, including, "Why so many?" "How do so many different snakes live in the same area?" Discover precautions to take when visiting the park or any desert area as the weather gets hotter and the snakes are active. A live, non-venomous snake will be present – but contained. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**May 4, 9, 10** 2:15 a.m. **Snakes** Talk: 30 minutes

**May 3, 17, 24** 3:15 p.m. Explore the life and lore, myths and misunderstandings about one of the desert Southwest's most intriguing icons: the rattlesnake. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**May 3, 4** 10:15 a.m. **Homesteading Adventures** Talk: 30 minutes

**May 10, 17, 24** at 11:15 a.m.; **May 15, 23** at 3:15 p.m. The Hispanic women from homesteading families in the Tucson area left records of their adventures, and a ranger reads some of these fascinating first-person accounts. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**May 10, 17, 24, 25** 10:15 a.m. **Neighborhood Characters** Walk: 45 minutes

See if you recognize plant versions of your friends, relatives, and neighborhood stores during a walk in the Cactus Garden. You may even meet "Bill Gates!" *Wheelchair accessible.*

**May 2, 23, 29** 2:15 p.m. **The CCC in the Tucson Mountains** Talk: 45 minutes

The Civilian Conservation Corps was launched in the midst of The Great Depression as an employment program to take young men off the streets and give them jobs restoring the country's depleted soil and forest resources. Much of this involved building the infrastructures of public facilities in the Tucson area, including many of the stone structures and trails at Saguaro National Park and Tucson Mountain Park. *Wheelchair accessible.*

